

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6721

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13027

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN, DAY AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. BEIRUT QUIETER LAST NIGHT THAN NIGHT BEFORE. ONE MIGHT HAVE DESCRIBED IT NEARLY AS A ROUTINE EVENING. ACS OPENED THIS MORNING. ALL ROUTES INTO TOWN OPEN BUT RADIO WARNED PEOPLE TO EXERCISE CAUTION IN THE CITY. MOBILE ROADBLOCKS SEEM TO BE THE LATEST FAD AND ESSENTIALLY CONSIST OF HIT AND RUN KIDNAPPING ON THE STREETS. TRAFFIC INTO TOWN EXTREMELY LIGHT AND TRAFFIC IN TOWN STILL IN THAT SAME CATEGORY, BUT MAY INCREASE AS DAY WEARS ON. VIEW SCHOOL CLOSURE YESTERDAY WE HAD CHILDREN'S MOVIES WHICH WERE WELL ATTENDED AND GAVE MOTHERS SOME RELIEF.

2. L'ORIENT LE JOUR REPORTS AN AMERICAN LIGHTLY WOUNDED YESTERDAY. EARLY MORNING CHECKS WITH HOSPITALS NEGATIVE. L'ORIENT LE JOUR PERSONNEL NOT REPEAT NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL 11A.M. LOCAL AT WHICH TIME WE WILL ENDEAVOR CONFIRM.

3. YESTERDAY'S POLITICKING AMONG EDDE, GEMAYEL AND PATRIARCH INCONCLUSIVE. NO REPEAT NO MEETING OF THE 20. AND POLITICAL SUBCOMMITTEE POSTPONED UNTIL WEDNESDAY. POLITICAL FOCUS

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APPARENTLY SHIFTING TODAY TO DAMASCUS WHERE WE UNDERSTAND JUMBLATT

AND OTHER LEBANESE LEFTISTS MEETING WITH ARAFAT, ZOHER MOHSEN
PDFLP LEADER HAWATMEH AND OTHER UNKNOWN SYRIANS. SPECULATION IS
THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED RE KHATAYEB INITIATING NIGHT BEFORE LAST
FRACAS WITH VIEW TO "INTERNATIONALIZING" CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS
WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN EITHER PARTITION OR UN PRESENCE. WE BELIEVE
BOTH THESE POSSIBILITIES REMOTE BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT
MANY LEBENSE ARE NOT THHINKING OF THEM.

4. PRESS REPORTS FOUR ROCKETS AIMED AT GEMAYEL HOME VILLAGE
OF BIKFAYA WERE DEFUSED. THIS COULD BE SERIOUS, FOR IN INSECURITY
SPREADS TO THE MOUNTAINS, THE COUNTRY IS IN FOR BIG, BIG, TROUBLE.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT13027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750364-1117
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751034/aaaabehta.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 0900 LEBANON REPORT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PORS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006